

Message Text

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41

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5070

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3253

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON LIEVANO'S TRADE INITIATIVE

REF: (A) BOGOTA 3531; (B) STATE 086569; (C) STATE 084732;

(D) STATE 085429

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON OAS REFORM (SEPTEL NOTAL), FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ASKED ME HOW THE COLOMBIANS WERE REACTING TO THE "STUDY GROUP" IDEA (STATE 070440). I REPLIED THAT I HAD NOT SEEN ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON COLOMBIAN VIEWS AND THAT I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE COLOMBIANS WERE PRETTY WELL OCCUPIED WITH THE LIEVANO PROPOSAL ON US-LATIN AMERICAN TRADE.

2. SILVEIRA IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THAT LIEVANO HAD WRITTEN HIM AND THAT HE HAD REPLIED. ACCORDING TO SILVEIRA, HIS REPLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LIEVANO'S IDEAS, CONTAINED A PROMISE TO STUDY THEM FURTHER, BUT RAISED THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY AND PRACTICALITY OF A JOINT LATIN AMERICAN APPEAL TO OR DEMAND OF THE UNITED STATES FOR CONCESSIONS ON TRADE, MOST OF WHICH THE USG PROBABLY COULD NOT GIVE. SILVEIRA WENT ON TO SAY TO ME
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THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HOPED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD IN FACT

BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME SPECIAL TREATMENT, HE WAS AFRAID THAT A JOINT LATIN AMERICAN REQUEST TO US WOULD RESURRECT A CONFRONTATIONIST SPIRIT.

3. I TOLD SILVEIRA THAT I AGREED WITH HIS THINKING. I SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH I KNEW THAT THERE WAS A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT UNDER WAY IN WASHINGTON TO IDENTIFY, IF POSSIBLE, TRADE BENEFITS FOR THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, THERE WERE, AS HE WELL KNEW, DEFINITE LIMITS TO OUR ABILITY TO MOVE WITHOUT RUNNING INTO THE VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN OUR LAWS AND IN OUR LONG-STANDING POLICIES. SILVEIRA SAID THAT IT WAS HIS REALIZATION OF THOSE LIMITATIONS THAT LED HIM TO REPLY TO LIEVANO AS HE DID.

4. FOR BOGOTA, AMBASSADOR VAKY: LIEVANO'S CONFIDENCES TO YOU WERE FULLY PROTECTED. AT NO TIME DID I INDICATE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACT OR CONTENT OF A LIEVANO-SILVEIRA EXCHANGE.
CRIMMINS

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